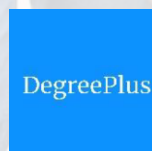


Future Leaders.

A National University-Level Capacity Development Initiative.



Organized by,
Analytic Consultancy Centre,
Department of Statistics & Computer Science, University of Kelaniya
In collaboration with
DegreePlus.



What is the 'Future Leaders' program?

The Future Leaders Programme is a **six-month, nationally coordinated, university-level capacity development initiative** designed for **undergraduate students** across Sri Lanka. It is implemented by the Analytics Consultancy Centre (ACC), University of Kelaniya, with support from research grant funding awarded by University College London. Analytics Consultancy Centre, affiliated with the Department of Statistics & Computer Science, Faculty of Science, promotes collaborative research, analytical problem-solving, and data-driven innovation through interdisciplinary academic engagement. DegreePlus, an education and mentoring platform that connects students, mentors, and academic institutions, will provide platform and operational support for student engagement, guided activities, resource sharing, and inter-university networking.

The Future Leaders Programme aims to strengthen **leadership, personal effectiveness, career readiness, research awareness, and community engagement** among undergraduates. The programme complements the work of **University Career Guidance Units (CGUs)** by offering a **structured inter-university framework** that promotes peer learning, mentorship, and exposure to academic and professional pathways. Future Leaders programme integrates expert-led learning with practical student engagement delivered through **weekly online sessions** and supported by guided activities on the DegreePlus platform.

Participating universities benefit from **enhanced student leadership development**, access to external academic and industry expertise, opportunities for **inter-university collaboration**, and student-led projects aligned with institutional and community priorities. Universities are invited to nominate a representative (preferably a CGU staff member), and **student ambassadors** to engage in this national initiative aimed at developing **socially responsible and future-ready graduates**.

Why This Programme?

Sri Lankan universities are increasingly expected to produce graduates who are not only academically competent but also equipped with leadership, adaptability, and real-world problem-solving skills. While Career Guidance Units play a vital role in student development, there remains a need for a structured inter-university platform that enables shared learning, broader exposure, and collaborative growth.

The Future Leaders Programme addresses this gap by providing a nationally coordinated framework, preparing students for both professional and societal impact.

In parallel, there is growing global concern around the impact of unstructured social media use among young people, with some countries introducing restrictions to address issues related to attention, wellbeing, and productivity. However, such measures also highlight a broader challenge — the lack of guided, purpose-driven platforms that can positively channel students' time and potential. Creating structured opportunities that connect students with mentors, peers, and meaningful activities is therefore becoming increasingly important, aligning closely with the role of Higher Education Institutions in developing responsible, engaged, and future-ready graduates.

Overview

The Future Leaders Programme is delivered as a structured series of online learning sessions combined with guided activities, reflections, and student-led projects.

- Duration : 6 months
- Delivery Mode : Online
- Session Frequency : Weekly sessions (Alternating between expert led sessions & student led sessions)
- Total Live Sessions : 24 Sessions
- Target Group : Undergraduate students from Sri Lankan universities
- Facilitators : Academic staff, industry professionals, and invited guest speakers from Sri Lanka and abroad

Programme Aim

To develop socially responsible, skilled, and competent undergraduate students who demonstrate leadership potential and are prepared for employment, postgraduate education, and community engagement.

Core Areas of Development

The Future Leaders Programme focuses on four key areas essential for preparing future graduate leaders.

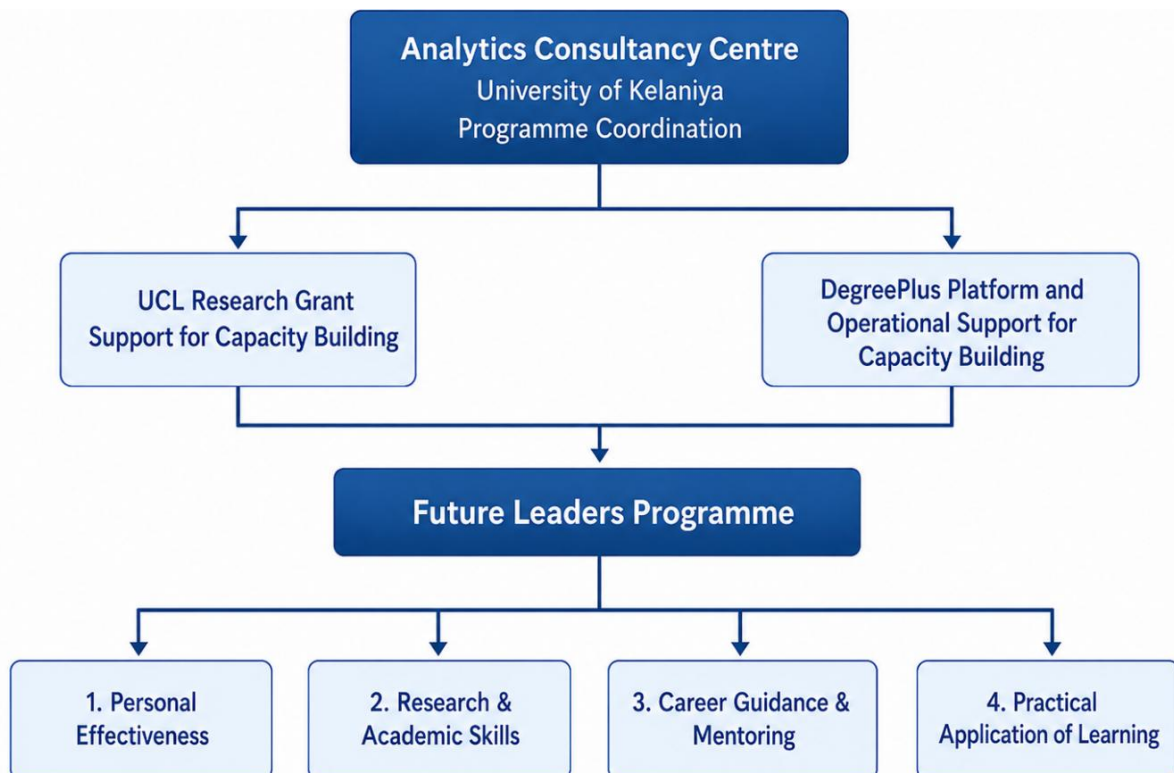
1. Personal Effectiveness - Students develop communication skills, teamwork, leadership awareness, goal-setting skills, time management strategies, and personal productivity habits essential for academic and professional success.

2. Academic and Research Skills - Participants gain exposure to research thinking, ethical considerations, academic writing practices, and critical thinking techniques that support both undergraduate study and postgraduate opportunities.

3. Career Guidance and Mentoring - Students explore career pathways across academia, industry, and entrepreneurship while strengthening employability skills such as CV preparation, interview readiness, and professional communication.

4. Practical Application of Learning - Students apply their learning by designing and implementing initiatives that address real-world challenges within their universities or local communities, encouraging socially responsible leadership.

About organizers



The Future Leaders Programme is organized by **Analytics Consultancy Centre (ACC)** and supported through research grant funding from **University College London (UCL)**, and implemented in collaboration with **DegreePlus** which will provide the digital platform and operational support for student engagement, guided activities, and inter-university networking.

As part of this initiative, participation in the programme will be offered free of charge to all participating universities and undergraduate students.

This funding structure ensures equitable access to a nationally coordinated capacity development programme while maintaining the quality of delivery, resources, and student engagement.

Future Leaders Programme: Summary Structure

The table below provides a detailed overview of the monthly programme themes and main areas of focus.

Month	Theme	Focus
Preliminary	Programme Orientation	Introduction to Future Leaders, participating universities, student ambassadors, and DegreePlus platform
Month 1	Personal Effectiveness	Time management, productivity, decision-making, scientific thinking, and personal systems
Month 2	Communication & Teamwork	Explaining complex ideas, teamwork, group dynamics, and collaborative leadership
Month 3	Academic & Research Skills	Research thinking, critical appraisal, academic writing, and proposal development
Month 4	Career Guidance & Mentoring	Career pathways, CVs, interviews, mentoring, postgraduate opportunities, and employability
Month 5	Project Development	Identifying real-world problems, planning feasible projects, budgeting, and implementation
Month 6	Competition & National Showcase	Project presentations, feedback, reflection, awards, and closing ceremony



Within each month there will be two expert led sessions related to the topic of each month and then two student led sessions where students share their leanings, discuss any questions and identifies strengths of participating universities so that students can use this knowledge in designing their student led project.

A Unique Inter-University Learning Model

A distinctive feature of the programme is the **University Exchange Forum (UEF)** model. Each month combines two complementary learning formats:

1. **Expert Development Sessions:** Delivered by invited academics, industry professionals, and subject specialists who provide practical frameworks, professional insights, and real-world perspectives.
2. **University Exchange Forums (UEF):** Collaborative sessions where participating universities share experiences, challenges, and strategies related to the programme theme. These include **University Spotlight Sessions**, which provide an opportunity for each institution to showcase its strengths and best practices while engaging in collaborative learning with other universities.

These sessions create opportunities for:

- Peer learning between universities
- Sharing institutional strengths
- Reflecting on student experiences across campuses
- Building a national network of engaged undergraduate leaders

Student Leadership Opportunities

1. University Representative

Each participating university will nominate a **representative** who will act as the liaison between the university and the programme team, ensuring smooth coordination and institutional alignment.

2. Student Ambassadors

Participating universities are then invited to nominate **undergraduate participants and Student Ambassadors**.

Student Ambassadors represent their university during the programme and play a key role in supporting engagement and collaboration.

Their responsibilities include:

- Encouraging participation within their university
- Supporting inter-university discussions
- Contributing to University Exchange Forums
- Promoting student leadership initiatives

Student-Led Projects and National Showcase

During the final phase of the programme, student teams will develop **small-scale project proposals** aimed at benefiting their universities or local communities.

Selected proposals may receive **seed funding for pilot implementation**, encouraging innovation and socially responsible leadership.

The programme concludes with a **National Showcase and Closing Ceremony**, where students present their projects and share their learning experiences.

Participation Framework

Participating universities are expected to:

- Appoint a **University Representative** to act as the main liaison with the programme team
- Nominate approximately **15 undergraduate students** to participate in the programme
- Nominate a minimum of **3 Student Ambassadors** to support consistent engagement and coordination
- Encourage consistent student participation throughout the programme

The programme is designed to require **minimal administrative involvement**, with coordination primarily handled by the programme team.

Key outcomes of the programme

By the end of the programme, participating **students** will:

- Demonstrate improved leadership and communication skills
- Gain clarity on career pathways and postgraduate opportunities
- Develop foundational research and academic skills
- Build inter-university networks and collaborative experience
- Design and present a practical project addressing real-world challenges

Participation provides **universities** with:

- A nationally coordinated leadership and employability development framework
- Access to external academic and industry expertise
- Opportunities for inter-university collaboration and knowledge exchange
- Enhanced student leadership and career readiness
- Support for student-led initiatives benefiting universities and communities

Through collaboration with Career Guidance Units and academic representatives, the programme aims to build a **sustainable national network for student leadership development** across Sri Lanka.


Contact for Further Information

Future Leaders Programme Coordination Team

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Universities and Career Guidance Units are encouraged to contact the programme team for further details regarding **student nominations, institutional participation, or partnership opportunities.**